

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3732
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INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW, GE, PFOR

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO DGB-DGB MEETING

REF: BONN 19503; BONN 19647

1. THE RECENT DGB EXCHANGE VISIT TO EAST BERLIN HAS CAUSED SOME COMMENT ON THE VALUE OF EAST-WEST UNION EXCHANGES IN PARTICULAR AND DETENTE IN GENERAL. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING USEFUL BACKGROUND TO THE DGB-FDGB MEETING, COMMENTS SUCH AS THE FOLLOWING GIVE SOME INDICATION OF WHAT ISSUES MAY BE RAISED DURING AMBASSADOR STRAUSS-HUPE'S VISIT TO DGB'S DUSSELDORF HEAD-QUARTERS ON DECEMBER 14.

2. IN A PUBLICLY RELEASED STATEMENT, DR. FRIEDRICH VOGEL, CDU BUNDESTAG DEPUTY AND CDU SPOKESMAN ON EXTREMIST OR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE FRG, ASKED DGB PRESIDENT VETTER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MEANING OF "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" AND WHAT POLICY THE DGB ACTUALLY SUPPORTS.

QUOTE: THE JOINT DECLARATION OF DGB PRESIDENT VETTER AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE FDGB IN THE GDR ISSUED RECENTLY GENERATES SOME URGENT QUESTIONS: "IT WAS AGREED THAT THE POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS IS AN IMPORTANT PREREQUISITE FOR PEACE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. IT ALSO CREATES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TRADE UNIONS." THIS JOINT DECLARATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF ONE OF THE LARGEST TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS IN THE FREE WORLD AND THE PRESIDENT OF A SOCIALIST

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COMPULSORY LABOR ORGANIZATION IN ITS WORDING IS EXACTLY IN LINE WITH A BASIC POLICY OF THE SOCIALIST CAMP. (THE TERM "SOCIALIST", AS USED HERE, ACTUALLY MEANS COMMUNIST.)

PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE MEANS RENUNCIATION OF WARS, NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, EXTENSION OF COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMY, TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE (SAGLADIN).

BUT: "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE INCLUDES THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE TWO SYSTEMS WHILE EXCLUDING WAR BETWEEN THEM" (JEGOREW). BREZHNEV SAYS "THAT THE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IS A FORM OF CLASS WARFARE, THAT IT IS A CRUEL, CONSISTENT FIGHT AT ALL LEVELS -- THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL LEVELS." THE HIGHEST FORM OF THIS CLASS WARFARE IS THE ARMED UPRISING (PRAVDA, OCT. 19, 1975). ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIST DOCTRINE, "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" CREATES THE MOST FAVORABLE PREREQUISITES FOR THIS FIGHT. IT WILL BE CONDUCTED "UNTIL SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS." THERE ARE NO COMPETITIVE APPROACHES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. "THERE IS ONLY ONE -- THE SOVIET (APPROACH)" (WOSLENSKIJ).

IN VIEW OF THESE AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENTS, THE QUESTION HAS TO BE ASKED: WHAT DOES HERR VETTER MEAN WHEN HE, TOGETHER WITH HERR TISCH, LABELS THE POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE "AN IMPORTANT PREREQUISITE FOR PEACE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS"? HE COULD NOT MEAN THE SAME AS HIS PARTNER. IF HE -- WHAT I IMPLY -- TOGETHER WITH

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TEACHERS' UNION PRESIDENT FRISTER DOES NOT UNDERSTAND
THE DGB AS A "CLASS ORGANIZATION", BUT AS ONE OF THE
GUARANTORS OF A LIBERAL ORDER, THEN THE POLICY OF
PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE CANNOT BE THE BASIS OF HIS CO-
OPERATION WITH THE FDGB.

BUT IF HERR VETTER UNDERSTANDS UNDER "PEACEFUL CO-
EXISTENCE" SOMETHING FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT THAN
HERR TISCH, WHAT ACTUALLY CAUSES HIM TO CREATE THE
IMPRESSION HERE, BY ADOPTING EASTERN TERMINOLOGY,
JUST AS THERE THAT HE ALSO MEANS THE SAME THING? WHY
DOES HE CONCEDE TO THE CHAMPIONS OF WORLD COMMUNISM
THE ARGUMENT THAT THE FREE GERMAN UNIONS ALSO CONSIDER
THE VICTORY OF SOCIALISM AS UNESCAPABLE?

I HAVE NO INTENTION TO SPECULATE ON THE ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS. THE MATTER IS OF SUCH A DECISIVE NATURE THAT THE DGB PRESIDENT HIMSELF SHOULD GIVE AN ANSWER.

MOREOVER, THE FDGB EVALUATES THE COOPERATION WITH THE DGB AS FOLLOWS: "IT IS AN ILLUSION TO BELIEVE THAT WE COULD ADOPT ANY MAJOR EXPERIENCES FROM THIS SYSTEM (DGB) AND THE ACTIVITY OF THE TRADE UNIONS UNDER THIS SYSTEM" (REINHOLD SOMMER, PRESIDENT OF THE METALWORKERS UNION IN THE FDGB). UNQUOTE.

3. ON NOVEMBER 19, THE DGB JOURNAL "WELT DER ARBEIT" PROVIDED FURTHER COMMENTARY ON THE ISSUE UNDER THE HEADING "COEXISTENCE."
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QUOTE: ALL TYPES OF PEOPLE GOT EXCITED OVER THE VISIT OF THE DGB TO THE FDGB IN EAST BERLIN. THEY INCLUDE CDU BUNDESTAG DEPUTY FRIEDRICH VOGEL. HE IS TAKING ISSUE WITH THE FORMULA OF THE COMMUNIQUE THAT "THE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS IS AN IMPORTANT PREREQUISITE FOR PEACE." DOES HERR VOGEL WANT WAR?

CERTAINLY, THE EASTERN SIDE IS INTERPRETING "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" ALONG DIFFERENT LINES THAN WE DO. BUT THIS DOES NOT PROVIDE ANY REASON TO ENGAGE IN SEMANTIC EXERCISES. "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" MEANS TO LIVE SIDE BY SIDE IN PEACE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DID NOT TAKE OFFENSE AT THIS FORMULA WHEN NEGOTIATING THE EASTERN TREATIES.

SOME OF THOSE WHO WITH US ENGAGE IN WISHFUL THINKING BELIEVE THAT SOMETIME THERE MAY BE A "TOGETHERNESS BASED ON REGULATIONS" BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES INSTEAD OF A "COLLATERAL EXISTENCE BASED ON REGULATIONS." THEY WILL BE WRONG. WE WOULD HAVE GAINED IMMENSELY IF BOTH STATES COEXISTED ON A MORE HUMANITARIAN BASIS THAN NOW. UNQUOTE.

4. ON A RELATED TOPIC, THE CONSERVATIVE "HANDELSBLATT" UNDER THE HEADLINE "VETTER'S DOUBLE STANDARDS" TAKES ISSUE WITH A LETTER WHICH DGB PRESIDENT VETTER WROTE TO DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER EXPLICITLY ENDORSING THE DISMISSAL OF TWO AIRFORCE GENERALS FOR THEIR ROLE IN THE RUDEL AFFAIR. IT COMMENTS:

QUOTE: YOU ARE RIGHT, HERR VETTER. WE DO NOT WANT ANY
EXTREMISTS AND RADICALS IN THE FRG AND WHOEVER IS IN
SOLIDARITY WITH THEM MUST TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES EVEN
IF HE HAS SERVED TO THE BENEFIT OF HIS COUNTRY FOR
DECADES.

HOWEVER, THE RIGOROUS CONDEMNATION OF RADICALS AND
EXTREMISTS BY THE DGB AND ITS PRESIDENT WOULD BE EVEN
MORE STATE-SUPPORTING IF THEY MEANT. NOT ONLY THE
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SENILE GENTLEMEN UNDER THE SWASTIKA, BUT ALSO THOSE
POLITICAL FORCES WHICH OPPRESS MASSES UNDER HAMMER
AND SICKLE. THE DGB SEES THE SPLINTER IN THE EYE OF
A (GENERAL) KRUPINSKI WHO SOMETIMES HAD A BEER WITH A
RIGHT WING EXTREMIST AND ON THAT OCCASION SAID SOME
STUPID THINGS ON CURRENTLY ACTIVE POLITICIANS. ON
THE OTHER HAND, VETTER DID NOT SEE THE LOG IN THE EYE
OF ALEXANDER SHELEPIN WHEN HE EXCHANGED KISSES WITH
HIM AT ONE OF HIS STATE VISITS TO MOSCOW.

BUT SHELEPIN WAS NO HIGH-DECORATED ARMY OFFICER LIKE
(EX-COLONEL) RUDEL, WHO HAS REMAINED A NAZI. SHELEPIN
IS THE FORMER KGB (INTELLIGENCE) CHIEF WHO REMAINED

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A BOLSHEVIST, AND THIS APPARENTLY DOES NOT CAUSE ANY
ANNOYANCE FOR THE DGB. ALTHOUGH THE HEAD OF THE
RUSSIAN SECURITY SERVICE, ACCORDING TO THE OPINION OF
THE KARLSRUHE SUPREME COURT, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUING
KILLING ORDERS, HIS PROSECUTION HAD TO BE SUSPEN-
DED BY THE FEDERAL JUSTICE MINISTER FOR THE DURATION
OF HIS VISIT TO THE DGB IN JANUARY 1975. ...

IT IS THIS DOUBLE STANDARD OF THE DGB WHICH MAKES ITS
POLICY QUESTIONABLE. A TRADE UNION DELEGATION WOULD
NEVER TALK TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF
SOUTH AFRICA, CHILE OR SPAIN. AND THIS IS A
GOOD THING. TRADE UNION LEADERS WOULD NEVER ADDRESS
AN NPD (RIGHT-WING EXTREMIST PARTY) CONVENTION. AND
THIS IS EVEN BETTER. BUT WHY ARE THEY MASSING AT
THE FEW CROSSING POINTS IN THE IRON CURTAIN IN ORDER
TO MAKE A VISIT TO THE COMMUNIST RULERS?

THIS WOULD ONLY MAKE SENSE IF THE SHOOTING OF YOUNG
GDR WORKERS WHO WANT TO GO TO THE WEST WITHOUT TRAVEL
PERMITS WERE STOPPED. BUT THE SHOOTING CONTINUES.
THOSE WHO COME THROUGH WITHOUT HOLES IN THEIR BODY
ARE CAREFULLY SELECTED TRADE UNION DELEGATIONS
FROM THE GDR WHO MAKE RECIPROCAL VISIT- AND,
NATURALLY, SPIES WHO -LIKE GUILLAUME ARE AIMED AT THE
DGB.

BUT SINCE THE TRADE UNIONS ARE BLIND ON THAT SIDE
THEY ARE SEARCHING VIGOROUSLY FOR THE RIGHTIST
RADICAL MUD IN THE CORNERS IN THE FRG. UNQUOTE.
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